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Bradford Exchange

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and that government of the
people, by the people, for the
people, shall not perish
from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.
November 19, 1863



**A tribute to the man whose life and words
are an enduring monument to the American ideal**

"The Gettysburg Address" inaugurates the *Lincoln, Man of America* collector's plate series by Mort Künstler, one of America's foremost historical artists. The release of this first issue by the Edwin M. Knowles China Company is timed to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's admission to the Illinois Bar in 1836. The edition of "The Gettysburg Address" is strictly limited to 150 firing days.

Abraham Lincoln, Man of America

He remains the conscience of America; the ideals of freedom and democracy live forever in his careworn face.

He lived the great American success story ... and his life gave it a new meaning. His wit, his manner, even his wisdom retained the rough-hewn honesty of his log-cabin beginnings ... yet his words gave voice to the noblest American ideals. He knew triumph and tragedy. He felt the suffering of the

people intensely ... but never faltered in his duty. He was the quintessential American hero ... and the most complex. His memorable face lives on in countless monuments ... yet he has never appeared more human, more accessible, than in Mort Künstler's definitive series of collector's plates.



The Gettysburg Address

He stands on the rough wooden platform, head and shoulders above the distinguished men who occupy it this day ... a commanding figure not only because he stands six foot four inches tall but also because he has the stature of a statesman and a natural gift for perceiving the truth and conveying it with striking clarity and poetic simplicity. He is Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States.

Artist Mort Künstler uses his extraordinary technical skill and passion for historical accuracy to make us a part of this historic moment at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on a cold November day in 1863. With his celebrated painterly vision, he shows us how three years as leader of a nation at war with itself have etched Lincoln's face with care, revealing the deep sensitivity of this very gentle man.

In the background, Künstler creates an incredible panorama that shows the throngs of spectators gathered here this day ... and that symbolizes, perhaps, the far-reaching vision of Lincoln himself. Though the painting takes us to the farthest edge of the crowd, we can make out countless faces in fine detail and read the strong emotions written on them. Amazingly, even full figures of men on horseback can be discerned far in the distance.

The great battle fought at Gettysburg four and a half months earlier had made the gently sloping hill outside that little farming community the universal choice for the national military shrine now being dedicated. And because Lincoln knew that many people in the North were weary of the war and wanted an immediate armistice with the South, he felt the dedication of that great shrine was the perfect opportunity to remind them how important it was to fight on. But as Edward Everett (the main speaker of the day) was scheduled to make a long speech, Lincoln told White House Correspondent Noah Brooks his own speech would be "short, short, short."

And short it was; just ten sentences in all. But ten sentences so compelling, so poetic, so filled with truth, so rich in wisdom, that the words would ring in American hearts from that day forward.

In colors as vibrant as those on the flag that flutters over Lincoln's head, Mort Künstler re-creates the drama and emotion of this long-past afternoon in Gettysburg when the nation's fate hung in the balance, and a common man ... one who proved once and for all that common men can become uncommon leaders ... gave America its everlasting paean of liberty.



*"With an instinct for portraiture that allows him
to probe the very heart of his subject,
Mort Künstler reaffirms his position as one of America's
premier Realist painters."*

Richard Lynch

Richard Lynch, Director Hammer Galleries, New York

"The Gettysburg Address"

Diameter: 8½ inches

Bradex Number: 84-K41-42.1

A new salute to America by a great American artist: Mort Künstler



For an artist like myself, who has made the great panorama of American history his subject, Abraham Lincoln is a supreme challenge. His face is so dauntingly familiar—and yet the essence of the man remains, somehow, beyond our grasp. I've studied the wonderful Brady photographs; it seems to me that all the passion and pain—and the wisdom, too—of the American experience are etched into Lincoln's remarkable face. His brooding eyes have known triumph and tragedy; they are, truly, windows to his heroic soul. When I did the original painting for "The Gettysburg Address," I tried to convey both the public figure who became the visible symbol of the American ideal, and the intensely private man who remains our most fascinating hero.

Mort Künstler

Following the stunning success of his first collector's plate series celebrating the American musical *Oklahoma!*, distinguished American artist Mort Künstler now fulfills a lifelong dream: creating historical paintings of his personal hero Abraham Lincoln to be used in a second limited-edition plate series.

One of the best of the new breed of Realist artists, Künstler is unsurpassed technically, combining an unerring attention to detail with a critically acclaimed artistic vision.

He accepted the challenge of bringing Lincoln's life to the collector's plate medium with alacrity, and recently said that he considers his ori-

ginal painting on canvas for the first plate of the series one of his best. It is, like most of his other works, a blend of the most painstaking research and Künstler's own creative imagination.

Because this landmark issue will interest not only plate collectors/speculators, but also Civil War and Lincoln buffs, extraordinary demand is anticipated. Collectors who want to assure themselves a plate at issue price are respectfully advised to act promptly.



A great American porcelain house—Knowles, North America's oldest name in fine china

The Edwin M. Knowles China Company traces its heritage to the early nineteenth century when Isaac Knowles, father of Edwin, pioneered in ceramics made from fine kaolin clay deposits near East Liverpool, Ohio. The family firm, Knowles, Taylor & Knowles, soon became America's largest supplier of the delicate china used in fine tearooms and restaurants, producing as well the exquisite Lotus ware that is prized by collectors today.

Today, the Edwin M. Knowles China Company has become, as a Bradford Exchange affiliate, a pre-eminent name in the field of limited-edition collector's plates, creating fine china plates fired in North America that continue the family tradition of a commitment to quality. The *Lincoln, Man of America* series continues the standard of excellence that has made the Knowles name famous for over one hundred years.



*With malice toward none;
with charity for all*

*Lincoln
April 10. 1865*



"The Inauguration"

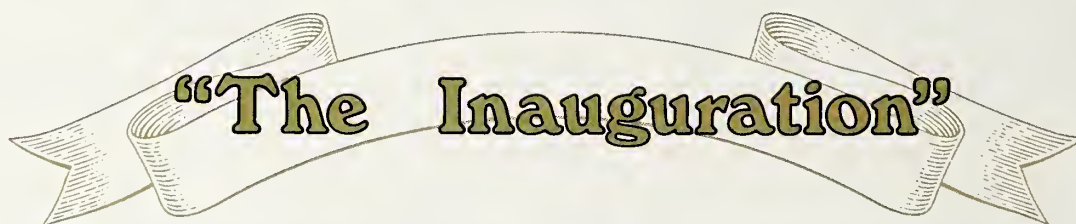
Second issue in the *Lincoln, Man of America* plate series by Mort Künstler, one of America's foremost historical artists. This tribute to the man whose life and words are an enduring monument to the American ideal is issued in an edition strictly limited to 150 firing days.

Abraham Lincoln, Man of America

He remains the conscience of America; the ideals of freedom and democracy live forever in his careworn face.

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"The Inauguration"

It is March 4, 1865, the evening of Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration as President of the United States, a moment of personal triumph that he and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, can savor. In many ways, it is the couple's night of vindication after the savage criticism and outright slander they have suffered for the past four years.

As they move among their distinguished guests at the Inaugural Ball in the festively lit White House ballroom, Mary—beautifully gowned, her favorite fresh flowers crowning her hair and clasped in her hands—glows with satisfaction at the resounding vote of confidence her husband has won. Lincoln (who as always towers above the crowd), though pleased that the North is at last moving toward victory, knows that personal satisfaction is out of place here. Instead, this good and gentle man wears an expression of humility on his careworn face.

Mort Künstler, widely acknowledged as America's foremost historical painter, once again employs his extraordinary technical skill and passion for accuracy to make us part of this historic moment in Abraham Lincoln's life. In this second plate in his *Lincoln, Man of America* collector's plate series, he depicts the women's hoop-skirted formal gowns, the men's dress suits and military uniforms with a most convincing exactness of detail. (Note, for instance, the missing button that tells us General Grant has arrived straight from the battlefield.) The room itself is an accurate depiction of the White House of the day—from the carved marble fireplace, the golden clock, the candelabra,

and the heavy gilt picture frame to the elegant striped wallpaper.

Lincoln is framed left and right by Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant and Vice President Andrew Johnson. By positioning Lincoln between the two men who will so soon, and so unexpectedly, occupy the presidency themselves, Künstler provides a dark hint of the future amidst the euphoric celebration.

Behind Johnson is General George G. Meade, hero of Gettysburg, and next to him, William H. Seward, Lincoln's brilliant Secretary of State. Thus Künstler suggests that even a man as great as Lincoln cannot achieve his aims without the help of other good and able men.

Earlier that day, Lincoln had once more given a speech destined to echo through history. He has called not for retribution but for reconciliation, urging his countrymen: "with malice toward none; with charity for all...to bind up the nation's wounds...and do all which may achieve a just and lasting peace..."

Künstler gives us a Lincoln ennobled by those generous sentiments. He keeps the lower two-thirds of the painting in shadows, the colors dark and rich, then brightens the top one-third with brilliant gold, creating a halo of light around the Great Emancipator's head.

Thus Mort Künstler's "The Inauguration" becomes a moving tribute to the man who brought our nation through its greatest trial, preserving not only the Union, but also the American Dream itself...a beacon of democracy for all the world.



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Richard Lynch

Richard Lynch, Director Hammer Galleries, New York

"The Inauguration"
Diameter: 8½ inches
Bradex Number: 84-K41-42.2

A new salute to America by a great American artist: Mort Künstler



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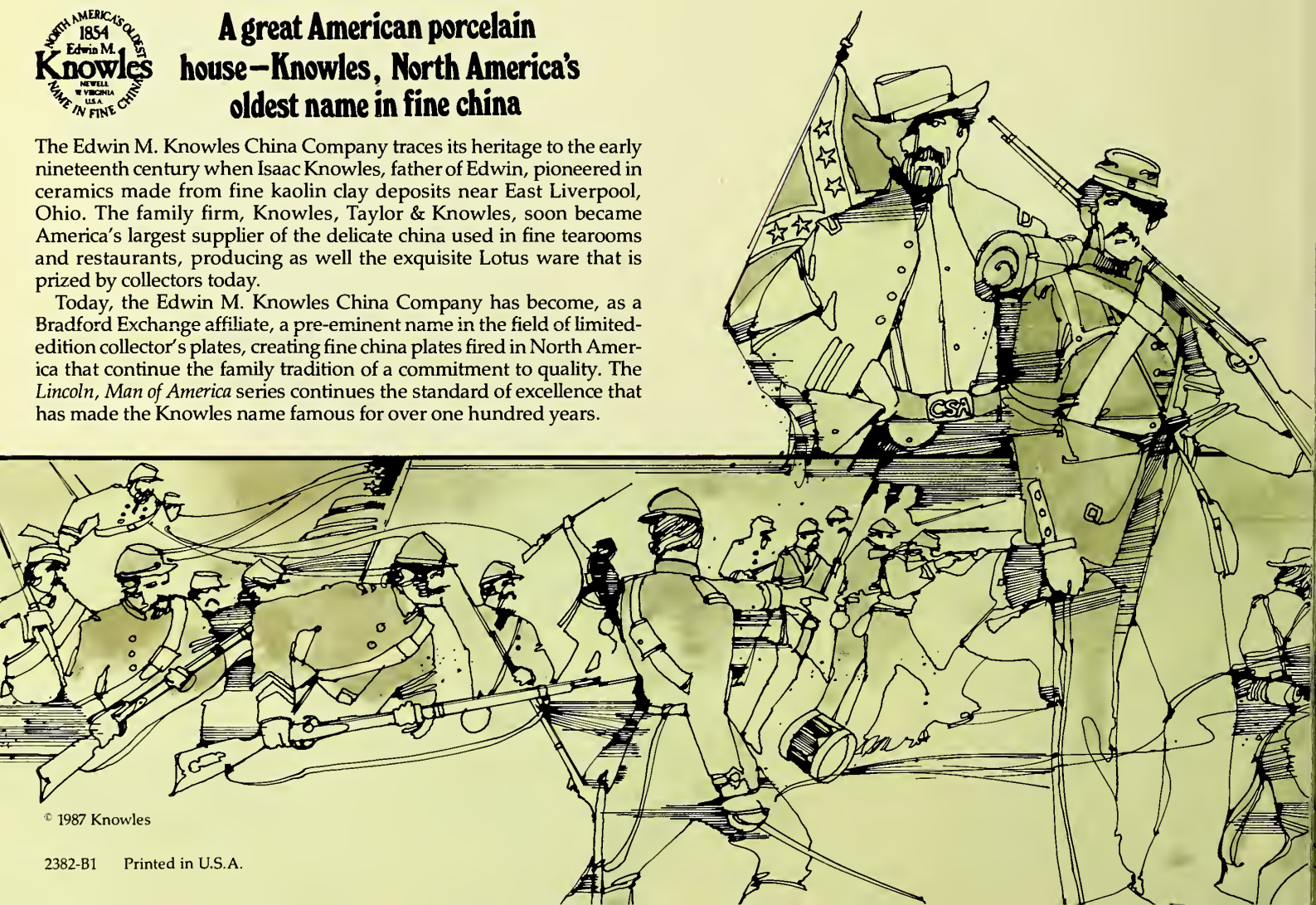
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"The Lincoln-Douglas Debates"

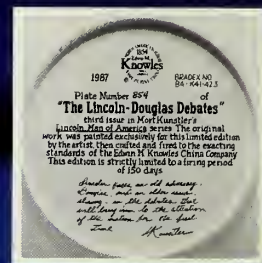


Third issue in the
Lincoln, Man of America
series by one of America's
foremost historical artists,
Mort Künstler, a monument to one
of America's greatest heroes.
Produced by the Edwin M. Knowles
China Company in an edition limited
to 150 firing days.



"The Lincoln-Douglas Debates"

Bradex No. 84-K41-42.3 Diameter 8½ inches (21.6 cm)



A dramatic depiction of the debates that first brought Lincoln national attention

They stand on a rough wooden platform in a small Illinois town in 1858, seemingly indifferent to the stifling summer heat. These two brilliant men—towering Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas ("The Little Giant")—are competing for the Illinois seat in the U.S. Senate and taking opposite sides of an issue even hotter than the weather: the future of slavery in the land of the free.

The two are old adversaries, having stood on opposite sides of legal battles in the courtroom (and in the drawing room where both sought the hand of Mary Todd).

Mr. Künstler portrays Lincoln as the physically powerful man he was, showing his huge fist resting on a pair of law books—just as his ideas of government rested upon justice and the ideals of America's founding fathers. The artist positions Lincoln's head against the sky to make him the focal point of the picture and to symbolize his high ideals as contrasted with Douglas's more cynical and "practical" political views.

The brilliance of Lincoln's arguments with the well-known Douglas, and the widespread coverage of their debates by the media, brought him for the first time to

national prominence, and made possible his nomination to the presidency two years later.

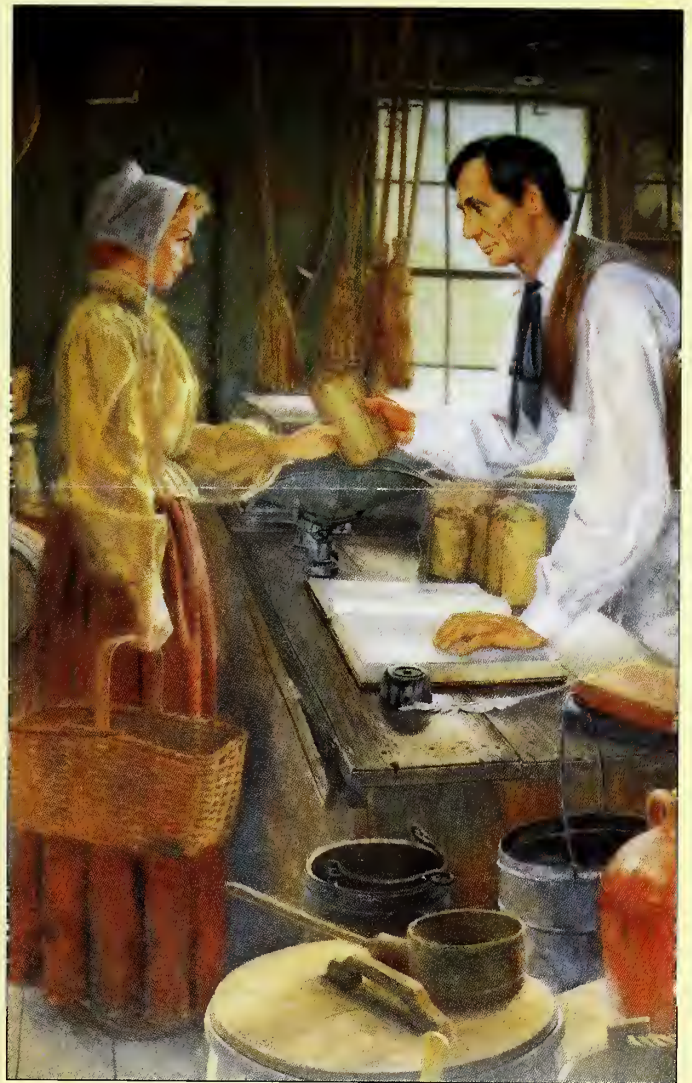
Thus, Mort Künstler gives us a moving portrait of Lincoln at a pivotal moment of his career: when his homespun wisdom first broke through the dangerous confusion of the day to bring the light of reason to his countrymen—and to help preserve the American dream of freedom for all.

Excerpt from Lincoln's speech at the Illinois State Convention, 1858 (just prior to the debates):

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free."

Abraham Lincoln

"Beginnings in New Salem"



Fourth issue in the *Lincoln, Man of America* series by Mort Künstler, one of America's foremost historical artists. Produced by the Edwin M. Knowles China Company in an edition limited to 150 firing days.



Bradex No. 84-K41-42.4
Diameter 8½ inches

Was she Lincoln's lost love?

It is 1833 in New Salem, Illinois, and young Abe Lincoln waits on a pretty customer in the frontier general store he will own for just a year. She is Ann Rutledge—gentle, demure, and intelligent—the lovely auburn-haired daughter of James Rutledge at whose tavern Lincoln once boarded.

Just two years later, at the age of twenty-two—shortly after she and Lincoln became engaged—Ann succumbed to a fatal illness. And it is said that Lincoln was so grief-stricken over losing her that he nearly lost his reason.

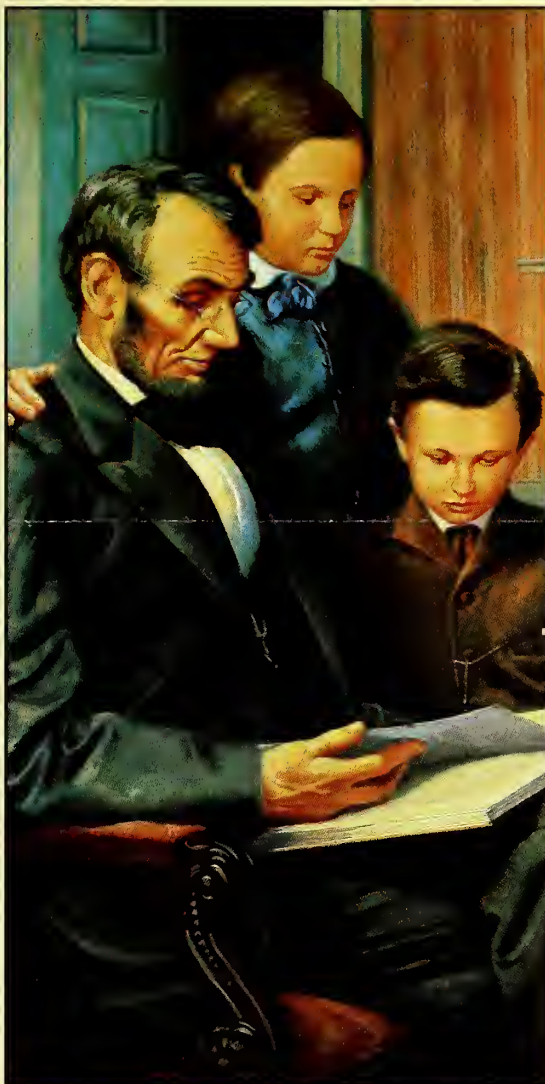
Although recent research indicates the influence of the romance was greatly exaggerated, it has been the subject of so many books, plays, and poems by major writers that it has become a beloved part of American folklore. Thus Mr. Künstler chose to portray this tender but tragic romance for the fourth plate in his series on the life of Lincoln.

"Beginnings in New Salem," fourth plate in the *Lincoln, Man of America* collection is limited to 150 firing days. Because this issue will interest not only lovers of fine art but also Civil War and Lincoln buffs, extraordinary demand is expected. To assure yourself a plate at issue price, contact your local limited-editions dealer without delay.

*"I am Ann Rutledge
who sleep beneath these weeds,
Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln,
Wedded to him, though not through union,
But through separation. Bloom forever,
O, Republic, from the dust of my bosom!"*

From the poem by Edgar Lee Masters
engraved on the tombstone of Ann Rutledge

“The Family Man”

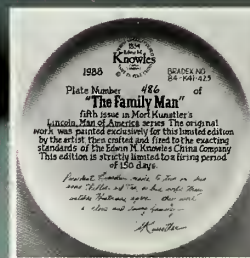


Fifth issue in the
Lincoln, Man of America
series by one of America's
foremost historical artists,
Mort Künstler, a monument to one
of America's greatest heroes.
Produced by the Edwin M. Knowles
China Company in an edition limited
to 150 firing days.



"The Family Man"

Bradex No. 84-K41-42.5 Diameter 8½ inches (21.6 cm)



A true picture of the Lincoln family at the beginning of the presidential years

It is 1860 in Washington, D.C., and newly elected President Abraham Lincoln sits in a White House parlor reading in relaxed and fatherly fashion to his younger sons, Tad and Willie. His wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, watches nearby, her hands busy with embroidery, an approving smile playing across her face.

This is a true picture of the Lincoln family: Contrary to persistent rumors that Lincoln's homelife was chaotic and unhappy, historians now know that exactly the opposite was true; his twenty-three year marriage was close and loving.

Accordingly, Mort Künstler, widely acknowledged as one of America's foremost historical painters, has chosen a famous family photograph by the renowned civil war photographer Matthew B. Brady as his inspiration. Mr. Künstler's composition makes Lincoln the focal point of the picture, thus giving us a father who, while closely involved with his family, was clearly its most powerful and important figure.

The Lincolns shared a love of poetry, politics, and children, and were unusually indulgent parents. Consequently Willie and Tad made the White House ring with their pranks. Amid the worries of presidency and war, Lincoln would romp and rough-house with his children and their pets to help him forget his troubles.

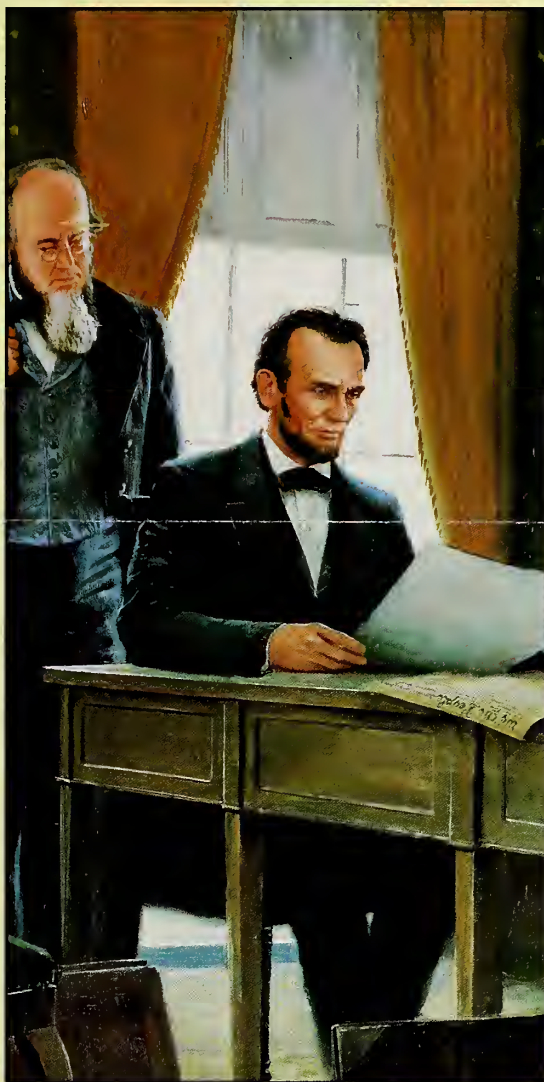
Mr. Künstler shows us this tranquil view of the Lincoln family

at the beginning of the first presidential term. The years that lay ahead would hold both joy and sorrow, but the love and support of Lincoln's family never wavered. Undoubtedly it helped Lincoln to accomplish his historic goal: that of saving the Union and preserving liberty for all Americans.

Mary Todd once gave this description of Lincoln's attitude toward his children:

"He always said: 'It is my pleasure that my children are free, happy and unrestrained by parental tyranny. Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to its parents.'"

“The Emancipation Proclamation”

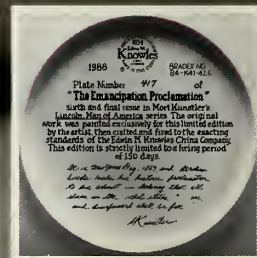


Sixth and final issue in the
Lincoln, Man of America
series by one of America's
foremost historical artists,
Mort Künstler. A monument to one
of America's greatest heroes,
it is produced by the Edwin M. Knowles
China Company in an edition limited
to 150 firing days.



"The Emancipation Proclamation"

Bradex No. 84-K41-42.6 Diameter 8½ inches (21.6 cm)



Lincoln acts to end slavery in the land of the free

It is New Year's Day, 1863, and President Abraham Lincoln has gathered with members of his cabinet in the White House Cabinet Room. Before adding his signature to it, Lincoln is reading aloud a document that will usher in a new era: the historic Emancipation Proclamation.

The faces of the Cabinet members are grave and understandably so. There are many risks in releasing such a proclamation. Indeed, Lincoln has delayed its issue until after an outstanding Northern victory (at Antietam) so the nation will not see the declaration as the "cry for help" of a desperate government.

"The Emancipation Proclamation" is the sixth and final plate in the Lincoln, Man of America series, a lasting tribute to the man whose life and words are a monument to the American ideal.

In order to provide the most accurate portrayal possible of this great moment in American history, artist Mort Künstler chose as his inspiration a famous painting of the signing by Francis B. Carpenter, which now hangs in the Capitol at Washington, D.C. With Carpenter's sketches and photographs to guide him, Mr. Künstler brings us a view of the scene as close to reality—from the details of the furnishings to the portraits of the participants—as possible.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation began a new era. With the Northern victory and subsequent constitutional amendment,

slavery was outlawed in the United States and eventually nearly everywhere in the world.

With his moving interpretation of this famous day, Mort Künstler completes his tribute to Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest American presidents, who preserved the Union for America and the American dream of freedom for all the world.

Excerpt from The Emancipation Proclamation:

"...I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States, and parts of States, are, and henceforward shall be free..."

Abraham Lincoln
January, 1, 1863

